

JANUARY 2010

Sacred Heart

Catholic Church

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A Letter From Our Pastor

Start 2010 With a Clean Spiritual Slate

Dear Parishioners,

We were all taught in school that the month January gets its name from Janus, the ancient Roman god of doors and gates. His image was always carved or painted with two faces, one looking forward and the other backward. This reflected, of course, that you can go either out a door or in through one. From this very specific function, his role was generalized to include all beginnings and new endeavors.

Because of Janus's place in the Roman pantheon, it seemed natural to the Romans to name the first month of the civil year after him. (The Church year began back with the First Sunday of Advent, you'll remember.) And although we no longer worship the pagan gods of the ancient Romans, the name has stuck down through the centuries.

But we're not immune to the human instinct that moved the Romans to name the first month after Janus. His double countenance, facing forward and backward, reflects how we approach the coming of each New Year.

The last week of the old year finds the newspapers and TV programs giving a glance back at the past year ("the 10 best, or worst, movies of..." and such) along with predictions of what the New Year will bring. My personal favorite is always "the 10 worst predictions" for the year just ending.

Just like the secular world does — Janus-like — we both look back at our own successes



Continued on back cover



Bringing Christ to Others Through Song The 4U Contemporary Music Ministry

As Christian stewards, every one of us is called to use our time, our talents, and our treasure – essentially our whole lives – to proclaim the Gospel. We are to preach the good news of Jesus Christ with the gifts the Lord has given us, and to call people to Him, showing them the love and mercy Jesus offers.

The members of the 4U Contemporary music ministry do just that on a daily basis. This group recognizes that God has given each of them incredible musical ability, and their mission is to praise the Lord through their music, and to call others to Him in the process.

“Through our music, we are bringing the Lord to others,” says Andrea Occhionero, a member of 4U. “We are introducing Him to non-believers and reaching out to them.”

If you’ve ever attended 10:30 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart, you have probably heard the 4U members sharing their unique musical talent with our parish family. On the second and fourth Sundays of every month, the group leads the music at 10:30 a.m. Mass, and it does a wonderful job. The 4U members’ faith in the Lord resonates in their voices as they sing the songs. There’s no doubt that these men and women have been given wonderful gifts. They are incredibly talented, and when you hear them play, it is a profound spiritual experience. Their ministry helps everyone to encounter Christ.

Yet, it’s not just those of us who hear them that benefit from 4U’s liturgical participation. In fact, Andrea says that the musicians, too, draw closer to Christ through the ministry.

“I have grown deeper in my love of the Lord while serving with this ministry,” says Andrea. “I’ve gained a deeper love and appreciation for a lot of things, like Scripture and the Mass.”

The group of musicians, who are all members of one of the parishes in our tri-parish cluster, play their praise and worship music on a regular basis, nurturing their and others’ spiritual lives as they do. They practice together every Friday evening, reading Sacred Scripture, learning new music, and reviewing the parts of the Mass. In addition to leading the music at the 10:30 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart, they also play at the 6 p.m. Mass at St. Mary of the Assumption on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. In addition, they also perform a “mission Sunday” on the third Sunday of each month – playing at different churches, for retreats, or even at coffee shops.

This active group loves what it does – bringing God to the world through its music – and it welcomes every opportunity it has to do so.

Visit the 4U Web site for more information on upcoming events at www.4uworship.com.



From left to right: Cbet Saniuk, Jan Saniuk, Rick Ricardi, Kayla Beckvold, Bob Haas, AM Smith, Mary Finn, Cheryl Finn, Andrea Occhionero, Charles Finn and Mark Occhionero.



New Year's Resolutions

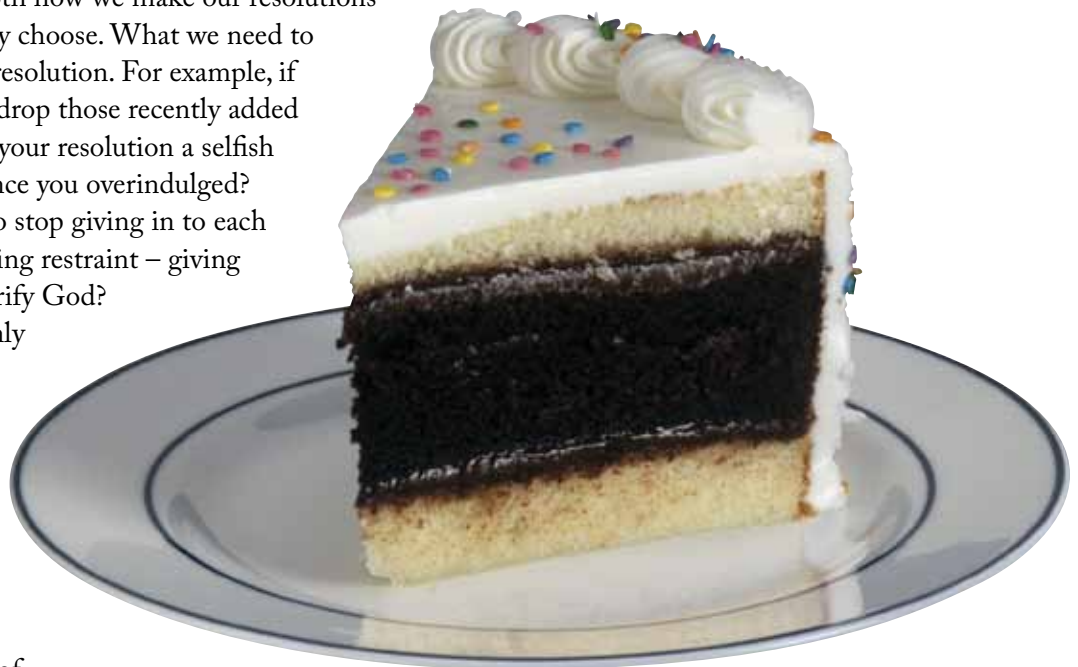
The New Year has arrived, and we are all busy making and trying to keep our list of New Year's Resolutions. Many of us choose resolutions geared toward health and fitness. After all, possessing good overall health is critical to our well-being. Some of us try to avoid a particularly bad habit. Maybe you need to quit smoking or stop swearing. Still others plan things they have always wanted to do, but never get around to doing.

As the days of January continue onward, however, many of us find the luster for keeping our good-intentioned resolutions to be fading fast. By the end of the month, most of us have given in to our temptations and returned to our old ways. We are only human, right? Discouraged by this yearly failure, many of us don't even bother making New Year's Resolutions anymore, especially if we feel like we won't succeed.

Maybe our failures lie in both how we make our resolutions and what resolutions we actually choose. What we need to understand is the "root" of our resolution. For example, if you resolve to eat less candy to drop those recently added holiday pounds, is the "root" of your resolution a selfish one – wanting to look better since you overindulged? Or, are you genuinely seeking to stop giving in to each "sweet tooth" craving by practicing restraint – giving up of a personal pleasure to glorify God? If the "root" is a selfish one – only to benefit yourself – then it is often difficult to keep in the long run. If we are trying to glorify God, however, our mission is much more important and worthy of keeping.

Tying your New Year's Resolutions into the principles of stewardship – giving of your time, talent, and treasure back to God – is a great way to ensure that the "root" of your resolution is right on track! For instance, resolving to pray each evening before going to bed glorifies God, brings you peace before slumber, and allows you to grow in your relationship with Christ. The "root" is pure. Your desire to keep it will be stronger and make it easier for you to accomplish. In the same way, resolving to return your talents to God by helping others in need is an excellent choice in creating a selfless resolution with the right "root." Furthermore, resolving to re-evaluate your finances is also extremely important, and the beginning of a New Year is a great time to do it. Are you giving back to God out of gratitude for all He has given you? Or, are you merely dropping a dollar or two in the collection basket just to feel good about yourself?

If you are not where you would like to be as a good steward – either with sharing your time, talent or treasure – you can resolve to do better. The New Year is a perfect opportunity to start anew and become the good steward God desires each of us to become. And, when we choose selfless things that build His kingdom instead of ours, we are sure to not only stay on track, but to succeed!





The Seamless Garment of Life

Protecting Life from Conception to Natural Death

This year as a parish, we have been working to understand how to make moral decisions and to shape our moral compass. Exercising the Commandment “Thou Shall Not Kill” clearly is the foundation for the Church teaching of the sanctity of life from womb to tomb.

As we begin a new year, we should be aware of the ways we kill. We not only kill people physically, but we also kill people’s spirits, reputations, enthusiasm, energy, and commitment.

We must recognize that all of us are made in the image and likeness of God. We are called to respect each other’s lives; including the life of the criminal, the elderly, the poor, the unborn, and the immigrant. The Fifth Commandment calls us to respect every life, no matter what color, creed, race or orientation.

Life is the most precious of gifts God has given us. As Christian stewards, we should recognize it as a gift, and we should defend it in order to give glory to God, the gift-giver.

Parishioner Paul Rogers recognizes how precious life is. “I’ve been supporting the National Right to Life Committee for a few years, now” says Paul. “I try to lend my support.”



“I’ve been supporting the National Right to Life Committee for a few years, now. I try to lend my support.”
-Paul Rogers

There are many things we can do to promote a culture of life in the world today. But first and foremost, as Paul reminds us, we must educate ourselves and pray. Paul encourages us to join fellow Sacred Heart parishioners every Friday in prayer.

“A group of us meets for a Communion service every Friday morning at 9 a.m.,” says Paul. “Deacon Joe does a Communion service here at Sacred Heart, and then he leaves the Eucharist exposed for Adoration for a bit. Then, there are a number of us who pray the Rosary together, offering it up for an end to abortion.”

Please join us.
 Everyone is welcome,

and this is a way to exercise the Fifth Commandment to promote respect for life at all stages, from the moment of conception until natural death.



The Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

What makes Catholics “Catholic”?

Things like the Mass, the Rosary, and the seven sacraments come to mind.

But there is also an element of Church teaching that’s often overlooked and sometimes misunderstood — Catholic Social Teaching.

Catholic Social Teaching guides Catholics on how to apply the Faith to all aspects of life, and lays the framework for the Church’s teachings on the dignity and sacredness of human life.

Catholic Social Teaching can be explained in seven key points. With these seven principles, the Church’s teaching on social justice is far-reaching, and calls Catholics to take an active role in shaping the world in which we live. Catholic Social Teaching, when taken to heart, can become the catalyst that causes positive change in a world that desperately needs it. Consider these principles and strive to apply them in your own life.

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred, and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The person is not only sacred, but also social. How we organize our society — in economics and politics, in law and policy — directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

Rights and Responsibilities

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities — to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God’s creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected — the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to the organization and joining of unions, to private property, and to economic initiative.

Solidarity

We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that “if you want peace, work for justice.” The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.

Care for God’s Creation

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the Earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our Faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God’s creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.



Parishioner Profile The Lenart Family

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus instructs the disciples to, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

And each Sunday, during the 10:30 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart, Sheri Lenart lovingly follows Christ's example, "letting the children come to her" as a catechist for the Children's Liturgy of the Word program.

"The children are very smart, and they know a lot more than we think they do," says Sheri. "I think what attracted me most to this ministry is that they are so fresh, eager to learn and non-judgmental."

Using visual aids, props, and age-appropriate readings, Sheri and the other Children's Liturgy of the Word facilitators teach the children about Sacred Scripture on their level, in a manner that they can understand.

"I try to teach them about how they can get to heaven, and get them to grasp how to be good Christians and stewards of Christ,"

says Sheri. "I love being around them because they are so open and they always ask questions. You just want to pump them with information at that age, because they are going to be the ones that are taking over for us."

Sheri and her family's commitment to the liturgy does not end with her service with our Children's Liturgy of the Word program, however. Her husband, Mike, is an usher, and their children, Allie and Gabe, both participate in the liturgy as altar servers.

Sheri says that serving the liturgy as a family is an extremely rewarding experience, and a good example of stewardship in action for her children.

"You want to teach your children that it is important to have a God-centered family, and just by going to Mass every Sunday and actively participating, it shows our children that it is okay to serve. Being there and being involved just makes the Mass all that much more meaningful."

Sheri says that the Sacred Heart Parish community has truly become an extended family for the Lenarts in their 11-plus years at our parish.

"When you get to be involved on a personal basis with the people you attend Mass with each week and have conversations with them, it gets to be more of a closeness, like a family," she says. "If you have a crisis in your own family, you want to be able to depend on your family in the parish. The only way to do that is to develop a relationship with them, and

you can't develop it if you are just sitting in the pews and not interacting."

Sacred Heart would like to thank the Lenart family for their selfless service to our parish community. In giving of their time, talent and treasure, they help to create a reverent, hospitable atmosphere at our parish liturgies, and benefit the entire parish family as a result.



"I try to teach them about how they can get to heaven, and get them to grasp how to be good Christians and stewards of Christ. I love being around them because they are so open and they always ask questions. You just want to pump them with information at that age, because they are going to be the ones that are taking over for us."

— Sheri Lenart

JANUARY 2010



Sacred Heart Church Calendar

Please see page eight of the newsletter for daily and weekly Mass times. This calendar is compiled a month before publication, and dates and times of events may have changed. Please confirm with the parish office, or check our Web site, www.shchopedale.org.

JANUARY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10:00a New Year's Day Mass Office Closed Mary, Mother of God	2 8:30a -9:30a AA Meeting 3:00p Reconciliation 4:00p Vigil Mass
3 9:30a -10:15a Faith Formation Classes 9:30a -10:15a Coffee & Reflection Epiphany	4 6:30p -9:30p Girl Scout Leader Meetings	5 3:30p -5:00p Boy Scout Meeting	6 9:30a -11:00a Mom to Mom	7 9:30a -3:30p Thrift Shop	8	9 8:30a -9:30a AA Meeting 3:00p Reconciliation 4:00p Vigil Mass
10 9:30a -10:15a Faith Formation Classes 9:30a -10:15a Coffee & Reflection 11:45a -Anointing of the Sick 3:00p -5:00p Confirmation Prep 4	11 6:00p -7:00p Daisy Troop	12 10:30a Draper Place Communion Service 7:30p -9:30p Parish Life Night	13 9:30a -11:00a Mom to Mom 10:30a Mass at Continuing Care	14 9:30a -3:30p Thrift Shop 11:30a -2:30p Senior Lunch Club 7:00p -8:30p Men's Prayer Group	15	16 8:30a -9:30a AA Meeting 2:00p -4:30p First Eucharist Prep. 3:00p Reconciliation 4:00p Vigil Mass
17 9:30a -10:15a Faith Formation Classes 9:30a -10:15a Coffee & Reflection 10:30a Mass Baptisms	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 4th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration (Sacred Heart Church)	19 3:30p -5:00p Boy Scouts 5:00p Mustard Seed	20 9:30a -11:00a Mom to Mom 7:00p -9:00p Baptismal Preparation	21 9:30a -3:30p Thrift Shop	22	23 8:30a -9:30a AA Meeting 1:00p -5:00p Confirmation prep workshop 3:00p Reconciliation 4:00p Vigil Mass 4:00p Confirmation Rite of Enrollment
24 9:30a -10:15a Faith Formation Classes 9:30a -10:15a Coffee & Reflection 10:30a Mass 10:30a First Eucharist Rite of Enrollment	25 7:30p -9:30p Pastoral Planning Meeting	26 10:30a Mass at Draper Place	27 9:30a -11:00a Mom to Mom	28 9:30a -3:30p Thrift Shop 7:00p -8:30p Men's Prayer Group	29	30 8:30a -9:30a AA Meeting 3:00p Reconciliation 4:00p Vigil Mass 31 9:30a -10:15a Faith Formation Classes 9:30a -10:15a Coffee and Reflection 10:30a Mass





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Mass Schedule

Saturday

3 p.m. Reconciliation
4 p.m. Vigil Mass

Sunday

8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Masses
(September through May –
in effect after Labor Day)
9:30 a.m. Mass ONLY
(Memorial Day through Labor Day)

Weekdays

9 a.m. Mass – Monday through Thursday
9 a.m. Communion Service
and Adoration – Friday

Holy Days

7:30 p.m. Vigil Mass
(Evening before Holy Day)
9 a.m. Mass

Change Service Requested

Clean Spiritual Slate *continued from front cover*

and failures, happy events and sad ones, during the year just ending, and also forward to the New Year, as we prepare our resolutions.

When we reflect back at the blessings we've received, our hearts should be filled with gratitude. And blessings there have been, no matter how difficult the year has been. But for most of us, there have been failures and failings, too. That calls for repentance, and perhaps a trip to the confessional – but God, who makes "all things new" (Rev 21:5), will then give us a clean spiritual slate to begin the New Year with.

I'd also like to challenge you to include your grateful response to God as you make your resolutions for the New Year. Why not attend the parish retreat on Jan. 8 and 9? There is still time to register, so call the office now and reserve your spot! You don't have to wait until you fill out a Commitment Card to decide this is the year when you're actually going to attend Mass once

a week in addition to Sunday (or begin worshipping every Sunday if you haven't been doing so), or to pray the Rosary every week, or to begin regular prayers with your family. Include in your resolutions how you are going to get involved in some ministry in the parish or some service to the community, and then do so. Decide to become more faithful in your financial stewardship if your treasure commitment is less than it should be. Look forward to the New Year, and bring Christ and His Church to the center of your resolutions. Then, see what a good year it will be, with God at the center!

Have a happy, healthy and holy New Year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Bill Konicki